

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1866

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The War in Africa.

A LULL IN MILITARY OPERATIONS.

London, March 21, 4:50 a. m.—While there is a lull in the military operations the political surroundings show interesting developments. The colonial office has telegraphed to Cape Town the text of the proclamation concerning the destruction of property. This will not be published in London until after its promulgation in South Africa, but it is known that it will convey an intimation that any wanton destruction of British property during the war will be regarded as warranting a claim for compensation and as justifying a levy upon private property, should the resources of the Transvaal republic prove inadequate. The fact that the proclamation is issued by the colonial office is regarded as a significant indication that the republics will be administered as crown colonies. In this connection it is understood that the leaders of the opposition in parliament now admit that no other settlement is possible since the republics insist upon their demand for absolute independence. In view of this the efforts of the Liberals will be confined to securing in the settlement the best treatment for the dense population including security against their disfranchisement.

It is regarded as a settled matter that should the war be ended, as is now hoped, before June, the government will dissolve parliament and appeal to the country on the basis of a successful South African policy. Should the war drag on, dissolution will be postponed until next spring. In any event one of the foremost planks of the government platform will be army reorganization.

There is no further information as to the movements of Sir Alfred Milner. It is regarded as certain, however, that he has gone to Bloemfontein to arrange for the temporary administration of the Free State.

The reply to Lord Roberts' communication as to the use of the flag of truce is commented upon as impertinent and ridiculous and Lord Roberts' course is closing a useless discussion is commended as wise.

Indications from Natal seem to show that Gen Buller's forward movement will not be long delayed.

The government has decided that Maj. Gen. Frederick Carrington shall command a colonial force of 5,000, including the 2,500 men Mr. Chamberlain asked from Australia.

Lord Roberts Continues Active Preparations for Advance into the Transvaal.

London, March 22, 4:12 a. m.—Several telegrams have passed between President Kruger and the British government, in addition to the Salisbury Kruger correspondence already published. The foreign office received a dispatch from Pretoria yesterday. The contents of these communications cannot yet be obtained.

So far as the military situation is concerned, there is practically no change. Lord Roberts is continually making preparations for the next move. As preparations to a beginning, Gen. Gatacre and Barabant are swiftly moving from point to point in the southern districts of the Free State, dispersing or accepting the surrender of any remaining Boers, thus ensuring the safety of Lord Roberts' communications before starting towards Pretoria.

A correspondent of the Daily News at Springfontein, describing these movements, says: "Gen. Gatacre is sweeping through the country like a cyclone, with flying columns in all directions. His swiftness and strategy have proved of incalculable value to Lord Roberts."

The rebuilding of the railway bridge at Norval's Point will occupy two months. The temporary bridge will be completed in about 10 days. Meanwhile supplies are transported in an aerial tramway across the gap. These works necessarily delay the providing of supplies for the advance.

Lord Methuen's movements north of Kimberley are believed to be a prelude to the gathering of 20,000 men with Kimberley, so that, as

strike eastward from Fourteen Streams into the Transvaal.

The long and anxiously awaited news of the relief of Mafeking has not yet been received.

Mr. Schreiner, the Cape premier, has granted the request of the mayor of Cape Town that a public holiday be proclaimed throughout the colony on the relief of Mafeking.

AMALGAMATION OF DUTCH STATES.

London, March 22.—The correspondent of The Times at Lorenzo Marques, telegraphing Tuesday, says: "It is reported from Pretoria that a scheme has been arranged for the amalgamation of the Transvaal and the Free State. President Kruger will become president of the federated states and Steyn, commandant general of the Boer army. The flag will be the same as that of the Transvaal, with an additional orange color."

"Although the story is not confirmed, it is not improbable. It is a notorious fact that Gen. Joubert has lost the confidence of the burghers simply because from the first he refused to shut his eyes to the inevitable result of the war. With all the burghers in the field, it might not be difficult to secure a formal endorsement of this rumored scheme."

TRANSVAALERS LEFT COLESBERG SUNDAY.

London, March 22.—A dispatch to the Standard from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday, says: "Four thousand Transvaalers from Colesberg trekked on Saturday and Sunday to the northeast, going by way of the Basutoland border. They will probably be caught at one of the passes."

A striking feature of the advance on Bloemfontein was the abandonment of our communications with Poplar Grove. Lord Roberts, confident in the ability of his transport to meet all the immediate needs of the army, deliberately left the enemy at Abraham's kraal to do what they liked. The result fully justified him. The enemy to the south were paralyzed by the boldness and rapidity of the stroke, and General Clements and Gatacre were enabled to cross the Orange river almost without opposition.

"NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDING."

London, March 22.—The Cape Town correspondent of The Daily Mail telegraphing Tuesday, March 20, says: "I have just arrived from Bloemfontein, where I learned that no further movement is probable for three weeks, as negotiations are proceeding. I failed to ascertain the nature of the negotiations or whether Sir Alfred Milner's departure from Cape Town is connected with them, but I should not be surprised if the war collapsed quickly."

Steyn's Warning to Kruger.

London, March 21.—At Warren town, north of Kimberley, desultory fighting occurred all Sunday, resulting in the retreat of the Boers towards Christiana under shell fire. The progress of this column towards Mafeking has either almost ceased or is forbidden to be mentioned in dispatches. Mafeking apparently still awaits relief.

The Pretoria account of the skirmish at Fourteen Streams March 16th, says that a Boer command was preparing to destroy a railroad bridge and that the engagement lasted half an hour, with that result that one bugler was slightly wounded.

The same dispatch announces the arrival at the Transvaal capital of Gen. Schalk Burger from Natal.

The second edition of The Times today publishes a dispatch from Bloemfontein dated Monday, March 19th, which says: "The blowing up of bridges by the Boers is an evident sign that the Transvaalers intend to abandon the defense of the Free State."

All is quiet in the south and west. A corps of young Boers from the farms surrounding Bloemfontein, under an imperial officer, has been detailed for police work and to prevent the further looting of abandoned farms by the Kaffirs.

It is said that when President Kruger left Bloemfontein after his recent visit there, President Steyn's parting remark was: "Mind the British do not catch you, or you will get better quarters at St. Helena than I."

Rudyard Kipling has gone to Bloemfontein.

The Boers at Aliwal North are reported to be still holding a position in the big hills on the Free State side.

From a Pretoria dispatch it appears some misunderstanding regarding Lord Salisbury's reply to America's offer of mediation exists there. It had been quoted to the effect that Lord Salisbury said he could accept the intervention or no other power, which leads to the belief that the American representations would be listened to in the future. The cavalry brigade has gone to the

No Startling News From Seat of War.

London, March 23, 4 a. m.—Again there is a persistent rumor that Mafeking has been relieved. The war office, however, declares that there is no confirmation of the rumor and that no further news on the subject is at hand. It seems certain Mafeking's only chance lies in relief by the columns supposed to be advancing from the south or in the possibility that Colonel Baden Powell is still strong enough to attempt a sortie, with a view of capturing the Boer guns, at a time when Commandant Snyman has withdrawn his men to oppose Colonel Plumer's advance. All the reports regarding the British operations in the Free State continue most satisfactory.

It is reported from Lorenzo Marques that Pretoria is prepared to stand a siege of two years, and that the Boer women, frantic at the reverses to the Boer army, are entreating to be allowed to shoot the British officers imprisoned at Pretoria.

It is announced from the Transvaal capital that the Italian government has declined to intervene.

A report from Kroonstad, O. F. S., via Pretoria that the Boers, under the command of Gen. Olivier, had defeated the British troops under Gen. Gatacre in the vicinity of Bethulie, is not believed here. A dispatch to The Daily News from Springfontein, dated Tuesday, March 20, says Gen. Gatacre was "all well" and adds that he and Gen. Brabant had not lost a dozen men in a fortnight. The last advice also places Gen. Gatacre about 30 miles north of Bethulie, where the Boer report says the defeat was inflicted. This, combined with the fact that no mention of the affair was made by Lord Roberts, in his dispatch of March 21, confirms the belief that the Kroonstad advice are erroneous.

The reports of skirmishing near Lobatse while apparently not inflicting any serious loss on Colonel Plumer's columns, cause grave anxiety in regard to his ability to reach Mafeking. Further news from that quarter is anxiously awaited, for in the six days that have elapsed since the last messages were sent off a serious engagement may have occurred, though not of Colonel Plumer's seeking. The Boers seem determined not to give up their prey at Mafeking without a fierce struggle.

In reply to the mayor of Cape Town's request to make "Mafeking relief day" a public holiday, Premier Schreiner wrote: "May the holiday come soon and may a spirit of general good will and kindly consideration prevail later."

The Times in its second edition, published a dispatch from Lorenzo Marques which quotes President Steyn as saying, at Kroonstad, that the Boers could continue the struggle for six months longer.

While the Boers and British in the Orange Free State are taking advantage of the period of inactivity to enjoy a rest, those on the borders of Natal are beginning to show activity. A special dispatch from Durban says the town of Pomeroy, 30 miles east of Ladysmith, has been burned by the Boers. A British detachment arriving at Pomeroy as the Boers evacuated the place shelled the burghers, but they succeeded in taking up a strong position in the hills with a force estimated to number 5,000 men.

It has been learned that no new peace overtures have been made to Lord Salisbury, nor are any expected at present by Great Britain. The telegraphic correspondence has been confined to the treatment of prisoners. Lord Salisbury, as already cabled, is holding the presidents of the South African republics responsible for the welfare of British prisoners. The question of safety of Johannesburg and the gold mines there has not been raised.

The correspondence exchanged between Lord Salisbury and President Kruger will shortly be given to parliament.

Replying in the house of commons today to a series of questions on the subject of Gen. Lord Methuen and his alleged disagreements with the officers of his column, which have caused considerable scandal, the parliamentary secretary of the war office, George Wyndham, declared no charge had been brought against Gen. Methuen by Col. Gough or any other officer. Col. Gough, he added, has been informed that an inquiry would be held into his case. Col. Gough is alleged to have been ordered home by Gen. Methuen after declining to obey a command issued by the latter, and the colonel demanded a trial by courtmartial.

SURRENDER OF MANY DUTCH.

London, March 22.—Lord Roberts telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of March 21, as follows: "So many burghers have expressed a desire to surrender under the terms of the last proclamation that I have sent small columns in the various directions to register their names and take over their arms."

eastward to Tshanchu and a detachment from Springfontein has occupied Smithfield, where some Transvaalers and a wagon with arms and ammunition were captured. The Scots Guards are at Edenburg and Reddersburg. Gen. Clements' brigade is marching hither by way of Philippolis and Fauresmith.

London, March 24, 4:15 a. m.—Lord Roberts' main army continues waiting at Bloemfontein. The interest in the fate of Mafeking has intensified with the retirement of Col. Plumer's forces to Crocodile Pools, where he was two months ago.

Relief from the north now dwindles to improbability. Lord Methuen is skirmishing with the Boers at Warrenton, although seemingly in force sufficient to do pretty much as he likes, he has not advanced these five days. It is hoped that his military ambition will give a pleasant surprise to the Britishers by smashing the siege with a strong column of cavalry and detouring to Mafeking while Commandant Snyman is drawn off to engage Col. Plumer.

Gen. French's cavalry and mounted infantry, according to rumor are fighting somewhere east of Bloemfontein. This suggests more Boer bad news, as Commandant Olivier's command with 2,000 wagons is reported on the Basutoland frontier, traveling northward toward the mountains.

Gen. Buller has not yet moved in Natal.

The Eighth division will go direct to Bloemfontein. Lord Roberts' effective disposable at the front 10 days hence will be, it is estimated, 70,000 men, with the easy possibility of moving eastward, forcing the Boers to evacuate the Biggarsberg range and joining hands with Gen. Buller before continuing the promise made to Pretoria.

GEN FRENCH'S MOVEMENT.

London, March 23.—According to a special dispatch from Cape Town, dated today, Gen. French's cavalry brigade is fighting eastward of Bloemfontein.

FROM BOER CAMP.

Boer Camp, Kroonstad, Thursday, March 22.—Affairs are being put in proper shape and the Free States who had to leave are returning in crowds. The president's proclamation has shown the burghers that the government is standing firm. The commands are mobilizing in great numbers and the men are more determined than ever.

President Steyn has issued a proclamation, in which he warns the burghers who lay down their arms and help the British that they are liable to the utmost punishment as traitors.

BOERS MEET PLUMER.

London, March 23, 9:21 p. m.—The war office has issued the following:

"From the General at Cape Town to the Secretary of War:

"Cape Town, March 23.—The following telegram has arrived from Nicholson, Bulawayo, March 16:

"The following is from Plumer, March 14: 'The Boers advanced from the south in considerable force this morning. They first advanced from Goodes Siding. After a sharp little engagement Lieut. Col. Bodle's advance posts compelled to retreat. The retirement was excellently carried out to our main position. The casualties included Lieut. Chapman and a corporal, prisoners, and two missing, probably prisoners. Five troops were wounded. Chapman's horse fell with him close to the enemy, who immediately surrounded him. The exact Boer casualties are unknown, but several were shot at short range. In the afternoon the Boers advanced further north and shelled our position from a ridge on our left. Our 123 pounder replied, the artillery duel continuing until sunset. Lieut. A. J. Tyler has since died of wounds. One native was killed.'"

Raleigh, N. C., March 22.—The most horrible crime in the history of North Carolina was perpetrated early this morning at Garner's, five miles east of this city, when a negro Tom Jones, commonly known in the county as "Preacher" Jones, murdered Ella Jones and her oldest daughter, Ida Jones, and then set fire to the beds in which lay the bodies of the murdered victims and four others, all children, ranging in years from a baby one month old to the largest boy who was not more than five years of age. The work was done with an axe, the murderer, according to the story of little seven-year old Laura Jones, who escaped with her younger sister, deliberately and coolly striking the mother four times and then making two heavy strokes into the body of the oldest child.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST ROOT.

Alleged That He Has Granted Mining Concessions

IN BED OF SEA NEAR CAPE NOME.

Washington, March 21.—Upon the authority of the governor of Alaska, Mr. Turner of Washington made the statement in the senate today that concessions for gold mining in the bed of the sea near Cape Nome, Alaska, had been granted by the secretary of war, and upon that statement he based a resolution of inquiry. Senator Turner said if such a grant had been made it was a "shame and a reproach and a scandal." The resolution was agreed to in a few minutes and without discussion the additional urgent deficiency bill was passed, with one or two other measures of importance. Mr. Allison gave notice that he would call up the conference report on the Puerto Rican appropriation bill.

Mr. Turner's resolution directed the secretary of war to inform the senate whether any concessions to excavate the gold bearing bed of the sea in the vicinity of Cape Nome, Alaska, or in other Alaskan waters have been made to any individual or corporation or association by the secretary of war or any other war department official and, if so, upon what authority such grant was made.

"The secretary of war," said Mr. Turner, "has jurisdiction over the navigable waters in the rivers and harbors of the United States, and at various times has given to private individuals authority to excavate the bed of such waters for proper purposes. Now, if this authority has been stretched to cover such a concession as that mentioned in the resolution it is a shame, a reproach and a scandal."

Mr. Wolcott of Colorado said that in view of this extraordinary statement the secretary of war would be anxious to answer any proper inquiry touching it. If such concession had been granted it was clearly a violation of the law.

Mr. Carter said it certainly could not be in contemplation of the secretary of war to give mining leases without a semblance of law. "I think the resolution should be adopted," said Mr. Carter, "as I am satisfied the response will show the secretary has not arrogated to himself such power."

The resolution was agreed to.

Secretary Root Explains Concessions.

Washington, March 22.—Secretary Root made a brief statement to the press at the war department today in regard to the action of the department in granting license to prospectors to dredge the water front of Cape Nome, Alaska, in their search for gold. He admitted that two concessions to dredge sand had been issued and 20 other applications are pending. He says they will all be granted. He says no exclusive privileges have been granted and there has been no discrimination. His authority was based upon the statutes giving the war department jurisdiction over the navigable waters of the United States. It was shown, he says, that the proposed dredging of sand would not interfere with navigation or the riparian rights of owners of adjacent territory. The particular character of the sand to be dredged did not enter into the consideration of the case at all. The secretary said further that anyone was privileged to dig for gold in the open sea, and the only question considered by the war department was whether such operations conducted within the three mile limit were an interference with navigation or an infringement on the rights of others. When these conditions were complied with the department was prepared to grant permission to anyone to dig in the beach at Cape Nome or elsewhere at any point lying within three miles of low water mark.

Secretary Root made it clear that the privileges in question were free to all responsible persons. He will shortly submit his reply to the resolution of inquiry adopted by the senate.

Washington, March 21.—Lieut. Commander Seaton Schroeder, at present secretary of the naval inspection board, has been selected to succeed Capt. Leary as naval governor of the island of Guam.

Mob Law in Virginia.

Condemned man Who Escaped From Jail is Captured.

Richmond, March 23.—The negro who, with a white man, was engaged in the killing of Justice of the Peace Saunders and Mr. Welton at Skippers in Greenville county Thursday, was after an all night chase captured at Stony Creek, Sussex county.

He confessed to the shooting of Saunders and Welton and to several robberies, among them that of the Gizzards at Emporia, but denied the killing of George W. Black, who was murdered in his store some weeks ago and of which he was also suspected.

He is a negro, Cotton who escaped from the Portsmouth, Va., jail some months ago, while under sentence of death.

A posse was immediately started to Emporia, the county seat of Greenville.

In the meantime a large crowd of infuriated citizens of Greenville had gathered at Emporia, bent on lynching Cotton. County Judge Goodwyn wired the governor a request for troops and the governor promptly ordered Co. B, Richmond Blues, to report at the Coast Line depot, where a special had been secured, and queried the sheriff of Greenville to know if he endorsed the judge's request. Later the governor received from the judge a telegram stating that it was said his life would be in danger if the troops were sent. The governor asked if he must construe this as a withdrawal of the request, but subsequently the sheriff's endorsement came, and the troops were dispatched. They arrived at the scene early in the afternoon, and forthwith surrounded the jail, to which Cotton had been taken, and where the white man who was with him when the killing occurred, is also confined.

Cotton gave the name of several parties who, he said, were engaged in the Black robbery and murder, and posess have been sent after them.

THE MOB RULES.

Richmond, Va., March 23.—At 9 tonight it was represented to the judge that if the troops remained at Emporia the mob would attack them. It was then agreed that the sheriff should order the troops back, and a local guard be placed at the jail, the citizens agreeing that the law should take its course, and the sheriff in a speech pledged himself that Cotton should never leave the county alive. The other company of the Blues had been held here under arms ready to reinforce their comrades, but Maj. Cuttine, who is in command on the scene of the trouble, telegraphed that they were not needed.

Thomas Wilson Building Another Railroad.

Greenville, March 21.—There is a probability that the "Swamp Rabbit" Railway will be rebuilt. Thomas Wilson, who is largely interested in saw mill property at Williamsburg, has bought large quantities of timber land in the section of country through which the road runs. It is understood that Mr. Wilson is backed by the Atlantic Coast Line, which owns a portion of the road.

It is thought in some quarters, where inside information is supposed to exist, that the road will finally be extended on to Brevard, via Sapphire, N. C., so as to run in over the Hendersonville and Brevard Road and make connection at Hendersonville, on the Western North Carolina Road, for Asheville and Spartanburg and other points west and east. A line from Sapphire to Brevard was graded several years ago.

Washington, March 21.—The fact that the state department has consistently, throughout the many uprisings in China necessitating the presence of foreign warships, adhered to its policy of sailing alone is quoted here as sufficient to indicate the error in the statement connecting the presence of the gunboat Wheeling at Taku with an international demonstration.

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